26th November 1928]

Supply of articles to the Lady Willingdon Leper Settlement.

* 642 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have received a memorial, dated 16th May 1928, signed by Mr. Kundammal Sowcar and other residents of Chingleput complaining against the practice of purchasing rice, firewood and other things without calling for tenders and accepting the lowest rates in the Lady Willingdon Leper Settlement at Tirumani;

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any action or propose to take any action on the memorial; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take steps to ensure the supply of good articles to the institute at the lowest rates?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government enquired into the matter and did not consider that any action was necessary.

(*c*) The management of the Leper Settlement is vested in the Mission authorities and the Government have no reason to think that the policy indicated is not being followed by them.

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the facts stated in the memorial are true ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" An enquiry was made into the matter. The Government have reasons to believe that the facts stated in the memorial are not correct."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know who supplies this hospital with funds and buildings ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question does not arise."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government satisfied that the quotations given and the quality of the materials supplied are satisfactory ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" They are as satisfactory as possible."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know whether there was a strike in the Leper Asylum due to the bad condition and diminished quantity of rice supplied to the inmates and that about 200 to 300 lepers left the settlement and invaded the city of Madras ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I will give an answer, Sir, more correctly, if the hon. Member would state to what period he refers."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Just before my hon. Friend became Minister, Sir."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Was it this year or last year ? "